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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, October 30, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended October 24 totaled an estimated 19.2 billion ton-miles, 1.0 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 43 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 771.1 billion ton-miles, 1.7 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended October 24 totaled 439,259 cars, 4.1 percent below 1980, but 0.8 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 2.1 percent in the East, 4.5 percent in the South, and 5.3 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 16 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings were up 15,247 cars, or 12.8 percent, and metallic ores showed a gain of 4,645 cars, or 17.5 percent. Over the last eight weeks, excluding the week that included the Labor Day holiday, coal loadings have averaged 136,363 cars per week.

Fourteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended October 17 totaled 34,469 cars, up 4.7 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 63,559 trailers and/or containers, up 7.3 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 42 weeks of the year was 1,374,851 cars, 2.0 percent higher than last year, and 2,495,648 trailers and/or containers, 1.9 percent higher than last year.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 10/24/81:

	Loadings in Week ended October 24, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	25,197	D	7,877	23.8	I	696	2.8
Other farm products	6,395	I	897	16.3	I	316	5.2
Metallic ores	31,199	I	4,645	17.5	I	2,356	8.2
Coal	134,826	I	15,247	12.8	D	2,842	2.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,641	D	2,402	16.0	D	400	3.1
Nonmetallic minerals	11,190	D	3,842	25.6	D	768	6.4
Grain mill products	14,366	D	3,294	18.7	I	233	1.6
Food and kindred products	15,442	D	3,160	17.0	I	47	0.3
Primary forest products	17,965	D	1,566	8.0	I	46	0.3
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,269	D	3,197	33.8	D	53	0.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	18,243	D	1,859	9.2	D	156	0.8
Chemicals and allied products	25,042	D	3,176	11.3	I	467	1.9
Petroleum products	5,278	D	38	0.7	I	107	2.1
Stone, clay and glass products	12,700	D	3,126	19.8	I	162	1.3
Coke	6,379	I	955	17.6	D	4	0.1
Metals and products	14,602	D	1,192	7.5	I	1,629	12.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	16,027	D	3,406	17.5	I	118	2.0
Waste and scrap materials	10,810	D	2,243	17.2	D	318	2.9
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,243	D	1,196	10.5	I	737	7.6
All other carloads	44,190	I	1,104	2.6	I	1,208	2.8
LCL traffic	255	D	1	0.4	I	49	23.8
Total Cars Loaded	439,259	D	18,727	4.1	I	3,630	0.8
Corresponding week of 1980	457,986						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (43 weeks)	18,117,505	18,762,926	D	3.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
42 Weeks cumulative	752.0	739.1	I	1.7
Week ended October 24	19.2	19.0	I	1.0
43 Weeks cumulative	771.1	758.1	I	1.7

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